



KDHE – BUREAU OF WATER RECOMMENDED PROCEDURES FOR DRAINING SWIMMING POOLS

March 31, 2005

Under daily routine operations, pools are required to discharge to a sanitary sewer - **not a storm sewer**.

During pool draining, if the sanitary sewer can handle the amount of water to be discharged **and the wastewater treatment facility owner will allow it**, the discharge should go to the sanitary sewer.

If the sanitary sewer can not handle the flow **or the wastewater treatment facility owner will not allow that amount of water to be discharged to the sanitary sewer**, the following options for disposal are listed in order of **most desirable to least desirable**:

- Option 1:** Irrigate the water on the pool grounds or a nearby area at rates that do not allow the water to run off the irrigated site.
- Option 2.0:** Discontinue chlorination of the water for 3-4 days and then discharge the water across a field/large lawn, etc. and allow the water to slowly make its way to a ditch, etc.
- Option 2.1:** Discontinue chlorination of the water for 3-4 days then discharge it to the storm sewer, **if the city/county/drainage district will allow the discharge**. If the storm sewer discharges directly to or after a short distance (less than 1/4 mile) to a nearby stream, choose option 2.2 instead. Control the discharge rate according to the storm sewer capacity and to minimize the effect on downstream waters.
- Option 2.2:** Discontinue chlorination of the water for 3-4 days and then slowly, over a couple of days, pump/drain the water to a nearby ditch. The rate depends on how much water is in the pool, the ability of the ditch to carry water and how close a stream is to the discharge point. Highway departments sometimes get concerned about using their ditches for wastewater conveyance, so they should be informed the discharge is swimming pool water and it may be discharged over a period of several days.

For a beginning/end of the year whole pool draining, KDHE does not require a permit. However, **the pool owner remains responsible for any local rules and not creating nuisance conditions or public health problems as a result of the discharge**.

We hope this answers your questions. If not, please contact us at 785.296.5506.

Prepared by Bureau of Water, Technical Services Section.